

Patent Application Serial No. 10/584,999

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

1. (currently amended): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel cell vehicle having a hydrogen tank which stores hydrogen as fuel gas and a fuel cell stack which generates electric power using the hydrogen supplied from the hydrogen tank, the fuel cell stack and the hydrogen tank being arranged in order from front to back of the vehicle in such a manner that the fuel cell stack lies ahead of the hydrogen tank between left and right mainframes which extend in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle under a floor of the vehicle, wherein

the release pipe is provided to release the fuel gas in abnormal conditions,

at least a release outlet of the release pipe is placed between the left and right mainframes and between the fuel cell stack and the hydrogen tank under the floor, [[and]]

the release pipe includes a portion ~~, in a vicinity of the release outlet,~~ which is supported on a sub-frame which supports the hydrogen tank, the sub-frame being supported on the left and right mainframes, and

the supported portion of the release pipe is in a vicinity of the release outlet at which the release outlet is heated by radiant heat from the fuel cell stack and also at which the release pipe is heated by exhaust air from an exhaust outlet of the fuel cell stack.

2. (original): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel cell vehicle as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a fuel cell box which contains at least the fuel cell stack; and

a ventilation which ventilates hydrogen inside the fuel cell box; wherein the ventilation sends ventilation air to rearward of the fuel cell box toward the release outlet.

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3. (currently amended): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel cell vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the release outlet is placed in a higher position than a horizontal center axis of the hydrogen tank.

4. (currently amended): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel gas vehicle having a gas container which stores fuel gas, and an engine which generates power using the fuel gas supplied from the gas container, wherein

the gas container and the engine are arranged under a floor between left and right mainframes of the vehicle, the left and right mainframes extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle,

the release pipe is provided to release the fuel gas in abnormal conditions,

at least a release outlet of the release pipe is placed in an area which is heated by the engine, and

the release pipe includes a portion, ~~in a vicinity of the release outlet~~, which is supported on a sub-frame which supports the gas container, the sub-frame being supported on the left and right mainframes, and

the supported portion of the release pipe is in a vicinity of the release outlet at which the release outlet is heated by radiant heat from the engine and also at which the release pipe is heated by hot air of the engine.

5. (currently amended): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel cell vehicle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the release outlet is placed in a higher position than a horizontal center axis of the hydrogen tank.

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6. (new): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel cell vehicle as claimed in claim 3, wherein the release outlet is placed substantially as high as or below the exhaust outlet.

7. (new): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel cell vehicle as claimed in claim 6, wherein exhaust air from the exhaust outlet flows toward the upper side of the hydrogen tank into a space between the hydrogen tanks and the floor.

8. (new): An installation structure of a release pipe in a fuel cell vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the exhaust outlet is in a vicinity of the vehicle center in the transverse direction thereof.